

The Chat

Volume 55 Number 9

Columbia Audubon Society

May 2013

<http://columbia-audubon.org/>

Serving Audrain, Boone, Cooper, Howard, Monroe and Randolph Counties

The mission of Columbia Audubon Society is to preserve the natural world and its ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and the earth's biological diversity, through education, environmental study, and habitat restoration and protection.

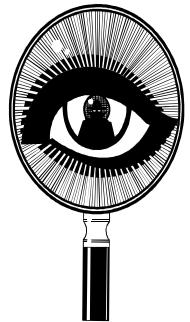
BOARD'S EYE VIEW

The CAS year is nearly over. This is the final issue of the CHAT until August. The May 15th picnic being held at Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary's shelter (3300 Rollins Road) is the final membership meeting until September.

Please join us for this pot luck supper to celebrate the successes of the past year and to vote on the slate of board members who will carry CAS forward. The CAS by-laws require a quorum of 20 members for board elections, so your attendance is important, plus it will be a fun evening.

Last August, I introduced myself as the new president of Columbia Audubon Society. I noted how the previous two years had been tumultuous but thanks to the efforts of many, the future looked bright. As goals I highlighted: increasing membership; a mission focused on education; and increasing the public's awareness of CAS.

Since August, Columbia Audubon Society has: 1) become a "Partner Friend" with the Columbia Public Schools Science Department; 2) coordinated two "Band With Nature" field trips hosting over 700 2nd grade students at Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary; 3) received positive publicity in newspaper articles; 4) hosted 12 field trips for our members and the community; 5) participated in an American Kestrel nest box installation and monitoring program; 6) continued to monitor and report on Eastern Bluebird nest box trails; 7) delivered programs or testimony to community groups and commissions 14 times; 8) constructed a concrete parking lot at Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary; 9) been the beneficiary of one Girl Scout project and two Boy Scout projects at CAS properties; 10) implemented a new Facebook site that is attracting postings from nonmembers as well as members; 11) conducted several habitat improvement projects at CAS properties; 12) funded an educator to attend National Audubon's summer program at Hog Island; 13) provided funds for a high school student to attend an American Birding Association summer camp.



MAY MEETING

**Wednesday
May 15, 2013
6:00 p.m.**

**Annual Picnic
Bonnie View Nature
Sanctuary
3300 Rollins Road**

**Bring a dish to share
Drinks and paper goods
provided**



The list is long but is by no means complete. "Columbia Audubon Society - Preserving ecosystems & biodiversity through education, environmental study & habitat restoration and protection since 1958... **we also like birds**" (from the cover of the new CAS brochure).

Bill Mees, President

MAY MEETING



CAS ANNUAL PICNIC

Wednesday, May 15, 2013

6:00 p.m.

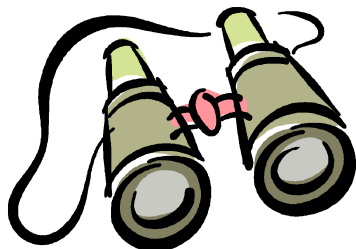
Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary—3300 Rollins Road



Please bring a covered dish or dessert and your lawn chairs. Drinks and paper goods will be provided. The evening's entertainment will be BIRD TRIVIA! Come enjoy food and fellowship with fellow Audubon members and test your bird knowledge!

Contact Julie Fisher with questions: julie8401@tranquility.net

FIELD TRIPS



Date: Saturday, May 18, 2013

Location: Three Creeks Conservation Area

Leader: Eric Seaman

Time: 8:00 a.m. meet at the second parking lot off Deer Creek Road. Go about 5 miles south of Columbia on US 63, then 1.75 miles west on Deer Park Road. Watch for signs.

Walking and standing will be involved.

Questions? Contact Eric Seaman: eseaman68@yahoo.com or 529-0530

SPECIAL EVENTS

MAY 11 - Saturday - Migratory Bird Count—(see Page 3)

MAY 15 - CAS Annual Picnic - 6:00 p.m. - Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary - 3300 Rollins Road

MAY 18 - Kids' Day at Songbird Station

Saturday, May 11 is the second Saturday in May which means that it is time to count birds, especially migrants from Central and South America which are coming to breed or just passing through. We know that because we have been counting birds on the second Saturday in May for twenty plus years. At one point, all the counties in Missouri counted and the data was submitted to the Audubon Society of Missouri. However, when only Boone and one other county were left counting that service was abandoned. Columbia Audubon Society has elected to continue to count and save data in such a way that we can look at Boone County data collected to identify changes possibly related to factors such as global warming.

So, on Saturday, May 11, 13 teams of birders will spread out over the entire county, from Area 1 in the northwest corner to Area 13 in the very southern tip. Unlike the Christmas Bird Count in which birders bear freezing cold to see limited numbers of somewhat dull birds, in the North American Migratory Bird Count, comfortably warm birders enjoy large numbers of birds in striking breeding plumage. The leaders for this year are: Area 1 Eric Woods, Area 2 Suzanne Wright, Area 3 Bill Clark and Bill Mees, Area 4 Susan Hazelwood, Area 5 Sandy Elbert, Area 6 John Besser, Area 7 Janice Gaston, Area 8 Kathleen Anderson, Area 9 Boyd Terry, Area 10 Paul McKenzie, Area 11 Mike Warnock, Area 12 Kay and Bill Palmer, Area 13 Laura Hillman.

If you want to count and have not been contacted by your usual leader or the new leader for your usual area, contact the leader directly. If you have not counted before and would like a spot you may contact Laura Hillman at 442-3703. She will be out there May 11th in Area 13 way down in the very tip of Boone County. Section leaders will transmit their species list to Allison Vaughn and Doug Miller for data compilation. We'll report back to you on everyone's success.

COLUMBIA AUDUBON SOCIETY FACEBOOK GROUP

Just a quick announcement to let everyone know that the Columbia Audubon Society now has a dedicated Facebook group you can join.

The group is open to all. You can use it to post photos, field trip announcements, bird sightings, event details, etc. It's also a great place to hang and network with local birders while online.

The group is at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/columbia.audubon/>



If you have any questions about the group or need assistance, please feel free to message the group manager, Kevin Wehner on Facebook or e-mail him at kevinwehner@gmail.com.

"The Columbia Audubon Society Facebook Group is a polite forum for discussing birding and the activities of the Columbia Audubon Society of Missouri. Please respect these guidelines in order to participate."

MEET OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Name:
Dean Ravenscraft

Board position:
Mowing Volunteer

Family: Wife Donna

Profession: Retired Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor. Currently work part time as a construction worker.



Pets: "Chief", our 13 year old retired Greyhound...the ruler of our roost.

Hobbies: Riding our motorcycle, participating in motorsports, and hanging out on the home front, grilling and watching life go by on our deck.

How long have you lived in Columbia? I have been a lifelong Mid Mo. Resident, born in Boone Hospital. Six years in the Military, and back here right after that.

How long have you been a member of CAS? Not really a member (I live in Callaway County), but a friend of CAS regardless.

What do you like best about CAS? What is not to like? Enjoyable sanctuary experience, with the educational, and environmental aspects being a bonus for the entire community.

How did you get interested in birding? Donna and I started nurturing our several pair of Cardinals, and enjoy the rewards of maintaining our multiple feeders.

Most exciting bird ever seen: We never tire of the escapades of our Cardinals.

Most recent "lifer": Even some of our bird friends know the dog leaves bits of treats on the deck. An added bird watching bonus outside our back door!



Name: Kevin Wehner

Board position: Facebook Group Manager... is that a position?

Family: Married to Susan Schabilion who is a self-employed home health aid who enjoys accompanying me on birding expeditions (she's got good eyes too!).



Profession: I'm working part-time at the Shelden Clinical Simulation Center, but also seeking full-time employment either in tech support/training or software testing.

Pets: BoBo the dog and Sophie the cat... she's a little chubby and couldn't catch a bird even if she were interested.

Hobbies: Birding! Reading, listening to music and bicycling.

How long have you lived in Columbia? Susan and I got married last October and I moved here from Kansas City just before Thanksgiving.

How long have you been a member of CAS? About six months, but I've been birding with Columbia folks for the past two years when in town visiting Susan.

What do you like best about CAS? Very friendly folks who are super knowledgeable about birds and birding. Wonderful field trips too! I also enjoy the Christmas Bird Count, Migratory Bird Count and the opportunities to help-out with elementary school field trips.

How did you get interested in birding? When I was a geeky little kid I used to tell people that I wanted to be an Ornithologist when I grew up... guess I'm just living out my childhood fantasy!

Most exciting bird ever seen: Snowy Owl at Smithville Lake about a year-and-a-half ago.

Most recent "lifer:" Wilson's Phalarope at Eagle Bluffs.



Band With Nature Program Gaining Momentum

by Howard Hinkel

Although the Tuesday, April 23 field trip had to be cancelled because of rain, on Thursday the 25th over 300 students brought conspicuous excitement, energy, and inquiring minds to Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary. At 9:15 the buses rolled in with 3 classes from Benton, 3 from Grant and 2 from New Haven. At 12:15 these students were replaced by 4 classes from Derby Ridge and 4 from Ridgeway. Each class spent about 25 minutes at well-planned learning sites based upon the 2nd grade science curriculum. The Raptor Rehab station featured a Great Horned Owl and a Red-tailed Hawk. The Bird Banding site was dominated by a feisty Northern Parula. The other 2 stations featured games emphasizing habitat and what happens to Quails when the habitat is diminished as well as adaptation where students examined beaks and figured out which beak was best suited for various foods which they also examined.



Remarks from students, teachers, attending parents, and a wonderful group of volunteers suggest that the “Band With Nature” program is gaining momentum. Columbia Audubon is grateful to all who made this fieldtrip so successful, especially the CPS science program, the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Missouri River Bird Observatory, and the Raptor Rehabilitation program. We owe special thanks as well to Songbird Station for continued financial support.

A brief personal note. While talking to a line of students about to begin their experience I told them they were lucky that their first stop would be with the raptors. I then learned from several students in line just how much they were looking forward to the event. I was told that handlers need to wear special gloves for protection from talons, that there are really good nature programs on TV., that Turkey Vultures regurgitate. One child asked if the hawk would bite. And off they went into the woods, excited and somewhat orderly.

“Band With Nature” is helping to mitigate what a contemporary writer calls the “nature deficit disorder.”

Nature facts for MAY from Missouri Department of Conservation *Natural Events Calendar 2013*



Meadowlarks begin nesting

Wood ducks hatch

Watch for common nighthawks over cities at night

Bobolinks migrate from Argentina, and some nest in northern Missouri.

Most purple finches have left Missouri.



REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

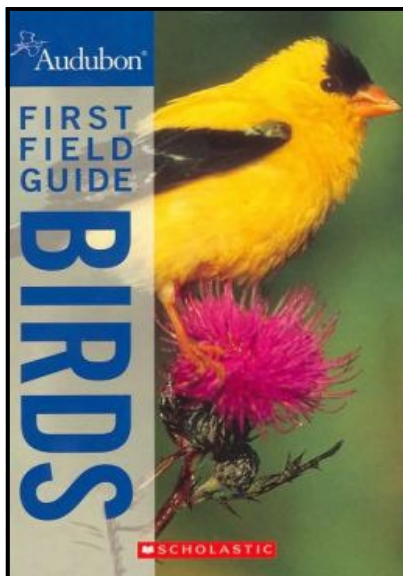
The Nominating Committee comprised of Janice Gaston, Kathleen Anderson and Laura Hillman is pleased to present the following slate for board membership:

Lottie Bushmann for Vice President (term to expire 2015)
Carolyn Terry for Board Member (term to expire 2016)

Elections will be conducted at the May picnic. According to the CAS bylaws, a quorum of 20 members must be present for a valid election.

The following board members with unexpired terms will continue to serve:

President: Bill Mees
Secretary: Alice Robinson
Treasurer: Eric Seaman
Board Member: Laura Hillman
Board Member: Lori Hagglund
Past President: Howard Hinkel



If you have young grandchildren or other grade school children in your life, we found a little field guide that would be great to introduce them to birding. It's the National Audubon Society's First Field Guide to Birds, published by Scholastic.

There's introductory material on birding and birds as well as pages devoted to common birds with descriptions, maps and similar species. We think it's out of print, but used ones are available through Abe Books www.abebooks.com or other online retailers.

Alice and Dick Robinson

THE PREPARED MIND

I don't know if Louis Pasteur was a birder. If he was, he must have been a good one. In a lecture at the University of Lille in 1854, he said, "*Dans les champs de l'observation le hasard ne favorise que les esprits préparés.*"

Translation: In the fields of observation chance favors only the prepared mind.

When we go afield seeking birds, the more we know about them increases our chances of finding them, knowing what we've found, and enjoying the often too brief moments with them.

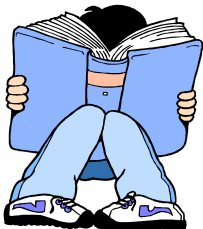
It's spring and birds are everywhere. We are out as often as we can be, looking for warblers, vireos, flycatchers, tanagers, orioles, cuckoos...oh, boy!

For the remainder of the spring and for the summer and fall to come, we can increase our pleasure in birding by preparing our minds for what we might see.

On the rainy days, or in the evenings, think about birds (tough assignment, huh?). Sure, it's fun to dream about what we might see, but take that next step—LEARN about the birds we hope to see.

There are many ways to do that.

We all have field guides. Read the narrative; don't just look at the pictures.



Read "Enjoying Missouri's Birds" from cover to cover—even if you've done it before. This is a free publication from Missouri Department of Conservation. Every Missouri birder should have a copy in the house and in the car.

Pick a limited number of species—2 or 10—whatever you are comfortable with, and learn more about them. The details about species, their courtship and nesting, food preferences and feeding practices, migration, territory establishment and defense—all the things that make up a bird's life—are called the life history.

Reading life histories can be fascinating and will help prepare for encounters with the birds. Arthur C. Bent of the Smithsonian Institution compiled life histories first published by the US government, then reprinted by Dover Press. They are also available online. In addition, <http://birdsbybent.netfirms.com/> is a website featuring life histories of familiar North American birds with the text by Arthur Cleveland Bent and collaborators, selected and edited by Patricia Query Newforth.

The life histories of species we hope to see can help prepare us to find and appreciate the birds, and our enjoyment will be even greater. With prepared minds, our birding will really be bodacious. Enjoy.



Columbia Audubon Society wants to thank our corporate sponsor:

Songbird Station

2010 Chapel Plaza Court, Suite C
Columbia MO 65203.

Phone 573-446-5941 or on the web at
www.songbirdstation.com

Columbia Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1331
Columbia MO 65205